

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 22-24 are indicated as allowable.

The specification has been objected to for a spelling error on page 2. This spelling error has been corrected herein. No new matter is entered.

The claims are objected to for informalities. With regard to claims 22-23, in the storing step, the use a second-half cell and a first-half cell do not necessarily refer back to the same first- and second-half cells recited in the preamble. The claim informalities noted in the Office Action have been attended to.

Claims 20-24 have been amended to provide clarification and improve grammatical content to applicant's claimed invention. The claims have not been narrowed by the present amendment.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-11, 15, 16, 18, 19 have been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. The claims have not been narrowed by the present amendment. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons et al. (Lyons) in view of Baldwin et al. (Baldwin).

Lyons describes an ATM processor filling payloads of ATM cells with AAL-2 packets. Whenever the payload of an ATM cell is filled up or a timer expires the ATM cell is placed into a transmit buffer.

Applicant's claim 1 provides distinguishing features of splitting a short packet, which has a length greater than a length L bytes, where L bytes can be accommodated in one ATM cell.

Lyons Fig 1 does not teach splitting a packet with a length greater than an ATM cell. According to Lyons (Figs. 1 and 4 and descriptions from column 5, line 35 to column 6, line 19), an AAL-2/SSCS processor 130 creates ATM cells 50-52 by mapping AAL-2 packets 60 in the payload portions of ATM cells and supplies the ATM cells 50-52 to an ATM processor 135. The ATM processor 135 stores the ATM cells 50-52 in a cell buffer and send out these ATM cells to a ATM network 100 by one by one sequentially.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, Lyons does not suggest a short-packet which has a length greater than a length L bytes, where L bytes can be accommodated in one ATM cell. Therefore Lyons does not teach splitting a short-packet into short-packet portions so as to be accommodated respectively in first and second ATM cells. As pointed out in the Office Action Lyons does not teach the short packet and the restoration means which extracts the short packets from the ATM cells.

Baldwin et al. describes short packets with an LI field representing the packet lengths. According to the ATM switch of Baldwin, a short packet is extracted from an ATM cell which is related to a certain ATM VCC, next an ATM cell related to another ATM VCC is created using the extracted short-packet, and then the created ATM cell is directed to the predetermined direction.

However in contrast to applicant's claimed invention, Baldwin does not teach or suggest a short-packet which has a length greater than a length L bytes.

Baldwin only suggests in Fig. 1 packet lengths shorter than the ATM cell. Nowhere does Baldwin teach the features of applicant's claimed invention. Furthermore Baldwin does not teach splitting a short-packet into short-packet portions so as to be accommodated respectively in the first and second ATM cells.

Neither of Baldwin nor Lyons teach or suggest splitting a short packet, which has a length greater than a length of the ATM cell into short-packets portions so as to be accommodated respectively in first and second ATM cells. Nor does the combination of references suggest to one skilled in the art the unique combination of features claimed by applicant.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that neither Lyons nor Baldwin teaches the distinguishing combination of features of the claimed invention, include at least:

short-packet split means for splitting a short packet, which has a length greater than a length L bytes into short-packets portions so as to be accommodated respectively in first and second ATM cells,

cell creation means for accommodating significant data containing one of the short-packet portions and short-packet length information in a payload area of the first ATM cell, accommodating significant data including another short-packet portion in a payload area of the second ATM cell, and inputting the first and second ATM cells to an ATM switch, and


restoration means for extracting short-packet portions accommodated in respective ones of the first and second ATM cells upon referring to said short-packet length information and restoring the original short-packet having a length greater than L bytes, and sending the original short-packet to a line.

Applicant's claimed invention provides distinctive advantages over the prior art whereby it is possible to switch a short-packet having a length that exceeds 48 bytes by splitting the packet. It is further possible to restore the packet correctly to the original short-packet of greater than 48 bytes by using short-packet length information.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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